showing an increase of 44%. Similarly, during 2004, 1,45,375 foreign tourists visited the State against 92,273 foreign tourists during 2003 showing an increase of 57%.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the State Government, about 62,100 foreign tourists visited Khajuraho during 2004 against 37,400 during 2003 showing an increase of about 66% in a year.

Improvement in air traffic infrastructure

*224. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of ATC officers at most of the major airports, which is making our airports unsafe;

(b) what steps have been taken to improve the infrastructure with 63 per cent increase in air traffic in the last five years; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to lack of area control centres there are gaps in the Indian skies and if so, what steps have been taken to remove these gaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is some shortage of ATC officers at some airports. However, there is no compromise on safety as all the ATC units are manned by qualified Air Traffic Controllers and ICAO Standards and Recommended Procedures are being followed strictly.

(b) Steps have been taken to provide additional ground infrastructure such as parallel taxiways, rapid exit taxiways and parking stands to enhance airside capacity at major airports. Additional air traffic routes through airport capacity (EMARSSH) project and Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) have also been implemented to accommodate more number of aircraft in a defined airspace. Automatic Dependent System/ Controller Pilot Data Link Communication system has been installed at Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai airports. In addition, the Air Traffic Control facilities are also being regularly augmented through improvement of Communication, Navigation & Surveillance infrastructure, on the basis of the requisition received from user agencies so as to meet the growing air traffic requirements.

(c) There are 11 Area Control Centres (ACC) which are covering major portion of the Indian airspace. Some of the ACCs are not continguous and are independent of each other due to the gaps in Very High Frequency (VHF) coverage and radar coverage. The gaps in VHF coverage is being covered by installing Remote Controlled Air Ground Communication (RCAGC) systems at various locations. Additional radars and radar networking are also planned. Besides, in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), AAI is implementing GPS and GEO augmented Navigation (GAGAN), an augmentation system to enhance the accuracy and integrity of GPS signals to meet precision requirements for providing augmentation service. A Dedicated Satellite Communication Network (DSCN) through Indian Satellite is also being installed so as to provide enhanced VHF coverage of Indian airspace through RCAG system.

Five point agenda for improvement of investment climate

*225. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has suggested a five point agenda for improving investment climate in India which includes easing restrictions on hiring and firing of workers and simplications of procedure for entry and exit of firms;

(b) if so, what are the other points mentioned in the report;

(c) whether Government have fully examined World Bank's five point programme to boost investment in India; and

(d) if so, to what extent it has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The World Bank in its annual report named "Doing Business in 2005" has used the following 7 indicators to benchmark regulatory environment in 145 countries, including India.

(i) Starting a business;

(ii) Hiring and firing workers;

(iii) Registering property;

(iv) Getting credit;